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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



*Corres Misc  
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16 January 1973

Dear Mrs. Souers:

For myself and on behalf of all those who have served with the Central Intelligence Agency, I extend you our deepest sympathy on the death of your husband. At the same time I wish to commemorate the great contribution he made to our country in the development of the concept of central intelligence after World War II. This concept was new to our system of Government and for months was a matter of widely divergent and strongly held views among the top advisers to the President. Eventually, in the early days of 1946 President Truman called on Admiral Souers to draft the final papers for his action. This resulted in the Presidential Directive of 22 January 1946 which established the National Intelligence Authority and under it the Central Intelligence Group. Your husband was then appointed Director of Central Intelligence as a leading figure in the intelligence structure and head of that group.

From these events came the establishment by law of the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, enabling our Government to meet its critical intelligence needs through the most turbulent times of the cold war period and the even more critical intelligence requirements to meet the current period of detente and disarmament negotiations.

We who inherited your husband's concept are particularly aware of what our country owes him in the field of national security. We hope the knowledge of this debt will be of some comfort to you in your loss.

Sincerely,

**Richard Helms**

Richard Helms  
Director

Mrs. Sidney W. Souers

STATOTHR

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OGC:LRH:jeb  
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1-ER  
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